

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 13-20 are allowed.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshino, JP4-338990A. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites “wherein the indication member serves as a control member for inhibiting the toner replenishing container from being loaded on a toner supply portion of the image forming apparatus if the indication member does not coincide with a structure of the toner supply portion.”

Yoshino ‘990 is directed to a device which prevents the erroneous setting of a toner cartridge to a toner replenishing hopper without changing the shape of the toner cartridge. A sensor 16 is provided which reads a bar code on the toner cartridge. If the bar code indicates that it is appropriate to load the toner, a sliding cover is moved so that toner can flow to the replenishing hopper. Applicants submit that the device of Yoshino ‘990 does not “inhibit the toner replenishing container from being loaded on a toner supply portion of the image forming apparatus.” Rather, the toner replenishing container is able to be loaded on to the toner replenishing hopper, but the flow of the toner is inhibited. Thus, Yoshino ‘990 does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshino, JP4-338989A. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

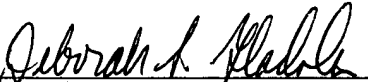
This reference teaches a similar concept as in Yoshino ‘990, but has a different mechanism for inhibiting the flow of the toner. As discussed above, this device will not inhibit the toner replenishing container from being loaded on a toner supply portion of the image forming apparatus. Thus, Yoshino ‘989 also fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772026000.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Deborah S. Gladstein

Registration No.: 43,636
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 760-7753

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